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SOURCE Ch'un-chung Jih-pao.

ACTIVITIES OF SHENSI PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IN 1950

(Reported by Chairman Ma Ming-fang at the Third Session, Northwest Military and Administrative Committee)

The following report by Ma Ming-fang presents the 1950 activities of the Shensi People's Government and discusses plans for 1951. It is interesting to note that Ma admits that the bandits became active again when the Korean War started, raiding government warehouses, interrupting transportation, and attacking local governments.

In Shensi, land reform was started in October 1950 and is expected to be completed by the spring of 1952. It has helped stabilize social order and increase production. The suppression of counterrevolutionaries, bandits, bad landlords, etc., was carried on in earnest during 1950. Food production was increased by 2,042,940 piculs and cotton acreage, by 3,398,919 mou. Financial and economic policies were unified. An educational reform movement was started all over Shensi and the establishment of the worker-peasant schools was stressed.

During 1951, food production in Shensi, is slated to be increased by 372,320,000 catties and raw cotton by 230,000 piculs. The financial and economic policy calls for an increase in revenue and reduction in expenditures, unification of economic control for financial stability, increase in agricultural production, and the pursuance of key construction projects. The repair and construction of the Hsien-Yu Highway and Sui-Sung Highway are also planned.

- 1 -

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I. LAND REFORM ACTIVITIES

Since the Shensi People's Government began land reform in October 1950 in the Kuan-chung and Yu-lin special ch'u (population 6,700,000) it has successfully extended such reform to rural areas comprising 2,060,000 people. Similar reforms in areas having a total population of 3,400,000 will be completed in April 1951, and will also be extended to areas with an additional 1,300,000 people before the summer harvest season.

Land reform in Shensi has been proceeding steadily and in an orderly manner under the direction of the Central People's Government and the Northwest Military and Administrative Committee. Some achievements have been made in such basic tasks as the mobilization of the masses, more exact classification of social groups, liquidation of criminal landlords, reorganization of local defense forces, redistribution of land, and strengthening of local governments as well as the suppression of bandits, special agents, and the I-kuan-tao religious group. Thus, a solid lasting foundation has been laid for future reconstruction.

In the course of land reform, the masses have become more conscious of their position in the social structure, and have awakened politically. Social institutions that have existed for thousands of years, and that have been held as unchangeable, are being destroyed by the masses. The landlord class and the land ownership system have been abolished. Relations among men have also begun to change: friendship, unity, and mutual assistance among the working people now replace the exploitation, extortion, hatred, and hostility that were created by the exploiting class. A new way of life under a new culture and new ideology has been substituted for the old one. As a result of land reform the social order is more stable than ever before. Suppressing the bandits and wiping out the special agents has become a mass movement. Social evils that have existed for thousands of years, robbery, murder, and arson have gone with the feudalistic landlord class.

Two marked trends have stemmed from land reform: increased production and an earnest desire for learning. Peasants take very good care of the land they receive, offer their services to one another in a spirit of mutual assistance, and rally for production increases. In Kuan-chung, the first plowing has already been completed in the wheat lands. In the winter of 1950, 453,000 people, mostly women and youth, attended adult classes. According to estimates covering the 23 hsiang in Ch'eng Hsien, there were 260 adult classes for women with an attendance of 4,138 or 15 percent of the female population in that area. One can find bulletin boards and newspaper-reading clubs everywhere in the rural areas. These facts show clearly to everyone the causes of our poverty, backwardness, and oppression. They also point out the key problems, the solution of which would lead our country to wealth and prosperity.

Land reform is a serious matter affecting millions of people; hence, it cannot be accomplished by only a few. Furthermore, landlords as a social class ruled for thousands of years and were supported by modern capitalism and the bourgeoisie for the past 100 years; hence, they could not possibly be eliminated unless thousands and even millions of people were mobilized. Therefore, we must call upon the masses to awake and to participate in the real struggle to wipe out bandits, special agents, and landlords. Only by so doing can we overthrow the landlord class and bring land reform to a successful conclusion. And only by so doing can the people develop their own organizations, such as peasant's associations, militia units, youth organizations, and women's organizations, through which they can receive proper education and training. In fact, in areas where land reform was carried out as intended, the people have become increasingly conscious of political affairs. Political awakening of the people comes from actual struggles and movements rather than from a static environment.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

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As the former ruling class is overthrown, and as the landlord class is eliminated in consequence of land reform, new men and new leaders from the working class will emerge in great numbers. They emerge out of the actual struggle, and are the most valuable leaders for the reconstruction of our country. Land reform is good education for everyone. The young and the old participate in land reform including persons from non-party organizations, as well as members of the Communist Party, the Youth Corps, the Democratic League, Kuomintang Revolution Committee, Democratic Reconstruction Committee, etc. All who have taken part in land reform have made very good progress. Land reform has brought the people close together, working as a team in the interest of the nation.

Campaigns to liquidate the criminal landlords and to reduce land rents and debts were started in July 1950 in southern Shensi. Such campaigns are nearly completed in P'ing-ch'uan Ch'u and will be fully completed by the end of April 1951. In areas where rent has been reduced, bandits have been almost wiped out, feudalistic influences weakened, and the political supremacy of the peasant has been established. Since rent reduction has brought about very favorable conditions, it is expected that by the spring of 1952 land reform in Shensi as a whole will be concluded.

II. BANDIT SUPPRESSION

At the time the provincial government was set up, there were about 30,000 bandit groups. By the end of May 1950, the larger groups were almost wiped out. However, since the Korean War started in June 1950, the bandits have become active again. They raided government warehouses, interrupted transportation, attacked hsien, ch'u, and hsiang governments and murdered government workers and civilians.

Early in July 1950, four bandit suppression headquarters (the Ch'uan-shen, Ning-shan--Fo-p'ing--Chou-chih, Chou-chih--Fu, and Wei-nan--Shang-la) were organized to round up bandits in Shen-nan and Kuan-chung ch'u. In the meantime, full-scale military campaigns were launched in the border regions near T'ien-shui, Pao-chi, Ch'i-shan, Fu-feng, and Shun-hua. Plots for armed riots were uncovered in Ch'eng Hsien, Yung-shou, Hsing-p'ing, T'ung-ch'uan, Lin-t'ung, Hua-yin and some other areas in the Shen-nan ch'u.

During 1950, we inflicted 29,196 casualties upon the enemy, 1,114 cases of plunder and 108 cases of plots to revolt were uncovered, and about 1,000 special agents and a great number of arms, munitions, telecommunications facilities and documents were captured. There were 8,205 bandits and counterrevolutionaries executed or confined for reindoctrination, and 11,766 former members of the Kuomintang and the Kuomintang Youth League registered. Some pressure was also put on the I-kuan-tao religious group. Thus, social order has been restored. The remaining 500 bandits, in small groups, will be wiped out in the coming few months.

In September 1950, the government began to execute a number of counter-revolutionaries. This has corrected the lenient attitude of the past when the value of reindoctrination was overemphasized. The present policy emphasizes self-discipline and advocates the execution of one individual for one case. Such a policy wins praise from the people. They say: "the people's government has enabled the people to become masters," or "the government can get rid of the bad men for the people." They all realize that the government intends to be strict with the bad men but lenient to the good ones.

To fortify the people's democratic dictatorship and protect the life and property of the people, we must continue to wipe out all counterrevolutionaries in accordance with the regulations to prosecute counterrevolutionaries, issued by the Central People's Government.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1-HUM

III. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Due to the collective efforts of the people, the army, and the cadres, Shensi has recovered from the rather serious famine of last spring. Food production was increased by 2,042,940 piculs and the cotton acreage showed an increase of 3,398,919 mou. Up to the end of October 1950, 249,000 mou have been affected by large irrigation projects, and 60,000 mou by small projects; 597 wells were dug, and 415 irrigation devices were lent to the people; 50,451 head of livestock were bred and 231,260 head were inoculated; 10,941,200 trees were planted in the forests and 2,322,900 in nurseries that cover an acreage of 486 mou.

The basic factor leading to these achievements is the various meetings which were called by leading government organizations. These meetings have taught our cadres the policy for production increase. Under this policy, equal emphasis is placed on the advancement and popularization of production technique, adequate political utilization of the working masses, and a better system of administration. Such a policy must be preserved and fortified in 1951.

Under the plan for 1951, food production is slated to be increased by 372,320,000 catties and raw cotton by 230,000 piculs. Agricultural production in northern Shensi, the old liberated area, is slated to exceed the prewar (1946) level. In Kuan-chung Ch'u it is expected to approximate the prewar level, and in southern Shensi to surpass the 1950 level.

To achieve these targets, we must coordinate the production movement with the campaigns to reduce rent and carry out land reform. We should at least complete the rent-reduction drive and land reform prior to the wheat harvest season. We must teach the masses the importance of work as a means of attaining wealth, the meaning of equal and just distribution of labor, the proper attitude toward lending, borrowing, and the hiring of laborers. Mutual assistance and cooperation among the people must be encouraged, and production campaigns and contests must be organized. The solutions to problems that confront the people must be found.

We must also encourage intensive cultivation, increase and improve irrigation projects, prevent destruction by insects, introduce better breeds of livestock, new agricultural contrivances, fertilizers, and new methods of cultivation. Leaders on all levels should go out and work with the masses to launch the patriotic movement for increased production in 1951.

IV. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

The two fundamental tasks of 1950 were to unify the financial and economic policies and to adjust properly commerce and industry. The conference on financial affairs, which met in April 1950, thoroughly discussed the policies devised by the Central People's Government to increase revenue, reduce expenditures, and integrate policy administration. It criticized past weaknesses, such as a lack of specific objectives, inaccurate estimation, and overlooking the importance of revenue.

To prevent corruption in financial administration by individual government organizations, the conference resolved to set up a treasury system for handling grain collection and to devise a better budgetary procedure. Committees were appointed to amend various regulations and to manage the properties and materials that were acquired from the former regime. Provincial bank and trading companies were set up in April 1950 to establish the cash payment system, issue loans to farmers, and regulate commodity circulation. As a result, inflation ceased and prices remained stable in 1950.

- 4 -

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CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

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In July 1950, the government implemented measures to control commerce and industry. For instance, government banks issued short-term loans which amounted to 78.3 billion yuan. The government trading company limited its business operations to cotton, cotton yarn, grain, and salt. By properly adjusting the official and market prices, and the wholesale and retail prices, the trading company aimed at stabilizing the commodity market so that a normal profit would be assured to the producer, transporting firm, and the retailer, thus stimulating commerce and industry.

As to the regulation of state factories and mines, the Shensi government adopted a system of quota control on personnel, expenditures, product quantity and quality. As to the private factories and mines, the government has helped them to solve some real difficulties by means of controlling production according to sale. Twenty-seven labor-management consultative committees were set up to carry on a policy beneficial both to labor and management; 3,000 unemployed workers found employment through government assistance.

Ninety-seven percent of the existing banks have been placed under government supervision. Public funds showed a surplus of 103 billion yuan at the end of 1950, equal to 12 times as much as at the end of February 1950. At the end of 1950, the ratio between accounts receivable and cash accounts was 8 to 1, which meant that cash had been transferred to treasury accounts in compliance with government regulations.

State trading companies have absorbed money in circulation amounting to 816,799,230,000 yuan by means of dealing in foodstuffs, cotton, cotton yarn, and cloth. The direct participation in trade by the state has improved commodity circulation between city and rural areas, while the proper adjustment of the prices of industrial products and farm products has increased the peasant's purchasing power.

The basic financial and economic policy for 1951 is to increase revenue but reduce expenditures, to unify economic control for financial stability, to increase agricultural production with all haste, and to pursue key construction projects. In other words, we must boost taxes and grain collection. Expenditures must be put on a selective basis. More specific emphasis must be placed on financial administration with good discipline. We must continue the inventory of property confiscated from the former government, and improve the management of commodities that are in the hands of the People's Government, find better markets for various domestic products, and stabilize prices.

Under the policy to stabilize the financial market and enforce monetary control, banks should absorb more deposits from private sources, encourage patriotic individuals to save, and expand various types of insurance. We must organize employees and workers as an indispensable means to improve the management in the existing state factories and mines, improve the Shih-ch'uan Rubber Plant, continue to regulate private industry and handicrafts, organize cooperative marketing and selling, extend labor insurance coverage, improve industrial safety and sanitation, and give relief to the unemployed.

In the field of transportation the government's principal objective is to complete the construction of the south end of Hsien-Yu Highway [from Hsien-yang to Yu-lin] and the Sui-Sung Highway [from Sui-te to Sung-chia-chun]: repair roads for animal transportation in the rural areas; improve the Han Chiang for navigation; strengthen and develop cooperatives to carry on government rationing, market domestic products, and make loans for the farmer to purchase fertilizer.

- 5 -

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50X1-HUM

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V. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Major cultural and educational activities in 1950 included strengthening the educational system in areas which have been liberated for a long period of time, reorganizing the educational system in the newly liberated areas, and enlarging educational facilities for workers and peasants. After being reorganized in the spring of 1950, most of the schools show bigger enrollments and greater efficiency, with a smaller number of personnel.

There are 14,979 primary schools (a 10.9 percent increase over 1949) and 786,884 students (an increase of 14.6 percent above 1949). In addition to the winter classes, which were attended by 700,000 adults in 1950 throughout the province, the government set up experimental schools in June 1950 to teach workers during their leisure hours. Up to the end of 1950, workers who attended this type of school numbered 4,426.

The government also set up special accelerated middle school courses for workers and peasants in Yen-an and Si'an. The government has reorganized the programs to indoctrinate educational and cultural workers. Various summer schools enrolled about 21,000 middle school and primary school teachers. About 10,000 people who had been out of school or out of work were given employment by the government. In the course of the patriotic campaign, Resist America, Aid Korea, 9,000 students of middle-school level and above applied for admission to military cadre schools -- greatly surpassing the 1,200 applicants estimated in the original plan. Workers everywhere launched the patriotic production contest, merchants were very willing to pay taxes. Under the slogans "Donate Grain Early, Donate Better Grain, Resist America, Aid Korea, and Protect the Fatherland," peasants were very eager to pay government taxes in grain.

The basic educational policy for 1951 is to develop school education and vigorously expand schools for workers and peasants. To meet national defense and economic and cultural reconstruction, more and better technical schools and teacher's schools will be set up, and special middle schools for workers and peasants will be enlarged. New supplementary schools for workers and peasants will be created. The education of workers during their leisure time will be further strengthened and more adult schools will be established. The work of cultural organizations must be improved and scientific knowledge must be popularized.

To improve cultural activities in rural areas, the government will set up movie teams and encourage amateur players to organize into groups. Through indoctrination with the combined spirit of patriotism and internationalism, we shall spread and intensify the movement to Resist America, Aid Korea, and Protect our Fatherland.

With respect to health and sanitation projects, emphasis was placed on prevention supplemented by medical treatment. During the spring of 1950, 1,221,960 persons were vaccinated (according to incomplete records from 72 hsien and shih) and 496,255 were inoculated (reported by 56 hsien and shih). Four people's hospitals in Sian, Yen-an, Pao-chi, and Nan-cheng, 95 hsien hospitals, 2 municipal hospitals, and 8 clinics were set up or restored in 1950. The public health policy for 1951 will be to strengthen disease-prevention projects among workers, peasants, and soldiers, and to organize the modern medical doctors and the native country physicians for further efficiency.

- 6 -

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50X1-HUM

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VI. CADRE RESPONSIBILITY

To fulfill the various tasks mentioned above, we must devote 90 percent of our efforts to work among the masses. Cadres of all government organizations should visit the villages on a rotation basis, to educate and organize the masses, and thus bring the people closer to the people's government. We should skillfully use peasant's delegates conferences, people's delegates conferences from all circles, etc., to carry out various activities. Lastly, we must constantly educate our cadres and raise their ideological level, overcoming the errors and shortcomings that have been found in our work.

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- 7 -

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